

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER
Friday 4th October 2019

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND
RESPECT**

The Value for this half term is RESPECT: 'Treat others the same way you want them to treat you' Luke 6:31. The values will be shared in daily worship sessions and students will have the opportunity to reflect on their meanings with a particular reference to how we lead our everyday lives.

Ms Sheppard, Head of Religious Education and School Worship

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

YEAR 7 LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT EVENING

Thursday 10th October from 5pm to 6-30pm

YEAR 11 Parent/Carer Evening Thursday 17TH October 5-8pm

YEAR 8 Parent/Carer Evening Thursday 24TH October 5-8pm

YEAR 10 Parent/Carer Evening Thursday 21ST November 5-8pm

ICELAND TRIP PARENT/CARER INFORMATION MEETING (YEARS 9-13)

Tuesday 15th October 2019 18.00-19.00 in the Hall

EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE BOWLING TRIP

Students who achieved excellent attendance 2018-2019 have been invited on a free bowling trip on Wednesday after school to Hollywood Bowl in Garston. Students may bring their own clothes to change into after school. The trip leaves at 3.45 and returns at approximately 6.15pm. Well done to all those invited!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

District Cross Country Championships at Verulamium Park on Thursday 10th October from 3.25 – 5pm

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE 11TH-15TH MAY 2020

Students will have brought home this week a form asking for their initial thoughts and preferences concerning their choice of work experience placements. This form is NOT an application form, and is for our information only. It is important to talk through the options and consider choices carefully before completing it. It should be returned to the school office by half term.

There are two ways to find a placement: by applying for something from the database of jobs already vetted and available, which will be issued later this term; or by organising a "private placement", ie approaching an employer directly and, if successful, asking the employer to complete a Private Placement form, which will be available from the school in the near future.

May 2020 seems a long way off, but we need to start planning now to help ensure that all students find their ideal placement.

Margaret Wood

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A Year 11 student is taking the lead in delivering 'Spoken Word' workshops on Thursday 3rd and 17th October for all to attend in the PE studio to celebrate Black History Month. She is also organising a whole school debate on Black History on Friday 18th October during lunchtime in the hall. We would like you to encourage your child to participate in these activities so they can benefit from sharing and expressing their ideas with others on the topic.

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

National poetry day was a resounding success with all subjects joining in to celebrate the day. Miss Bailey, the Art teacher, wrote a beautiful poem to share with her classes about the truth of Art. In English, poems were written, read and performed throughout the day. In Maths, poems about Maths were enjoyed at the start of lessons and the same was done in MFL, Science and History. Thank you for continuously encouraging your child to enter poetry competitions online this week as we have received many entries. A very enjoyable National poetry day was had by all! Mrs Kleyhans, Lead in Literacy

YEAR 9, 10 & 11

HISTORY

Year 10

Students will have the opportunity to take part in a workshop delivered by two Native Americans on **Tuesday 22nd October** to learn about Native American beliefs and culture which links with Paper 2. This also ties in well with our Diversity week celebrations at school. Letters have already been issued and consent slips must be signed and returned as soon as possible with a £4 contribution. If your family has financial difficulties, the school may be able to assist in very special cases. Please speak to your child's Head of Year in the first instance to discuss the problem in confidence.

Students have started studying the American West and they can procure the revision guide at the cost of £4 from the History office at any point in the year. If your family has financial difficulties, the school may be able to assist in very special cases. Please speak to your child's Head of Year in the first instance to discuss the problem in confidence.

Year 11

Students have been offered the opportunity to go on a trip to London on a full day tour of the Whitechapel area which is the historical environment feature in Paper 1 Crime and Punishment. This is an ideal opportunity for students to revisit content and practice source skills in the context of Whitechapel. Trip letters and payment must be made by the **latest 14th October**.

Please see the note above on the American West workshop which will also be offered to Year 11 History students as part of their enrichment and revision of Paper 2.

Students can procure the Weimar and Nazi Germany revision guide at the cost of £4 from the History office as we will be starting this unit in September. If your family has financial difficulties, the school may be able to assist in very special cases. Please speak to your child's Head of Year in the first instance to discuss the problem in confidence.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

STUDENT WELLBEING

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Healthy Young Minds in Herts is an excellent resource. It supports schools parents/carers and young people. Do go onto their website and have a look at the wealth of information and tips they provide for improving well-being or dealing with stress and anxiety.

<https://www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk/>

ATTENDANCE

Children should be coming into school every day unless your child is really poorly. A headache sore throat or cold doesn't necessitate a day off school. As a school our aim is for 95% and above. Anything that falls under 90% is deemed by the government as persistence absence

Recurring illnesses require an early visit to a GP so that the illness can be treated.

Form tutors will be asking for medical evidence if your child's attendance caused a concern last year or of your child is already missing days from school this year.

Medical evidence may be a signed appointment card from your GPs surgery or a prescription. In some cases it may be a report from a hospital or other health service. The school works closely with the Local Authority attendance team and as part of this there are regular meetings that are held to look at attendance data. We really want to work with you as parents/carers but should ongoing absences persist without medical evidence we will work with the Local Authority and issue warnings of Fixed Penalty Notices. The Local Authority may then take further action with legal action if attendance doesn't improve.

If your child is struggling to come into school there is often an underlying reason that has nothing to do with health. Please, please talk with your child's form tutor early so we can put investigate and put in proper support or signpost you to other resources/agencies. Thank you